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DEDICATION

OF THE

NEW CABINET AND OBSERVATORY

OF

AMHERST COLLEGE.

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ADDRESSES

AT

THE DEDICATION

OF THE

NEW CABINET AND OBSERVATORY

OF AMHERST COLLEGE,.

JUNE 28, 1848.

BY

HON. WILLIAM B. CALHOUN AND OTHERS.

AMHERST:

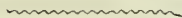
J. S. & C. ADAMS, PRINTERS,

MDCCCXLVIII.

The New Cabinet and Observatory of Amherst College having been erected by the donations of more than forty individuals, and the Institution having been liberally aided by others of late, these Benefactors and others were invited by the Trustees and Faculty to meet on the 28th of June, to examine the edifice and the collections in Natural History which the College contains, and to unite in public thanksgiving to God. After an introductory Welcome by the President of the Institution, the principal Address was delivered by HON. WILLIAM B. CALHOUN: And at the public dinner, several other addresses were made by distinguished gentlemen who were present. The whole is here presented in the belief that it will gratify those friends of the College who were not present to mingle in the scenes of that delightful occasion.

WELCOME BY THE PRESIDENT.

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Friends and Benefactors of Amherst College, and of Science and Religion :

It is my delightful privilege to-day, in the name of the Trustees and Faculty of this Institution and of the citizens of this village, to welcome you to this place. We have indeed no baronial castles, nor magnificent palaces, to bid you look upon, nor city luxuries to tempt your appetites. But we can show you nature all around us, in her freshness and grandeur. These broad plains, which bound the Connecticut,—these rich clusters of the primeval forests, and this noble amphitheatre of mountains around us, reposing majestically against the summer sky, all send back the echoing voice of welcome. These college edifices too, reminding us of the generous spirits and liberal hands that erected them, now for the most part gone to their reward,—and also of the many noble hearted youth who have been educated here, these edifices put on to-day an unmounted dress * to honor your presence. And the young men now connected with the Institution whom your liberality has of late provided with increased facilities for an education, and whom we are proud to introduce to you, hail your coming. But it is mainly to show you some of the fruits of your beneficence in the new Cabinet and Observatory and their contents, that we have invited you hither. Allow me briefly to recapitulate what God through your instrumentality, has done for us within the last two years.

First in the order of time, though not perhaps in the order of announcement, came the munificent endowment of two and a half Professorships of \$20,000 each, by Hon. Samuel Williston, though one of them dates a little farther back than two years. The other half of the third Professorship, was promptly supplied by Samuel A. Hitchcock Esq.

*Recently fitted up with window blinds.

Through the judicious and persevering efforts of the friends of the College in the State Legislature, and eminently of its graduates, who were members, the sum of \$25,000, in five annual installments, was granted. And with this we have been enabled to cancel our debts, make our buildings more comfortable, reduce the expenses of tuition, and provide a handsome endowment for a Massachusetts Professorship, which shall forever bear testimony to our gratitude.

The next movement that resulted in rich blessings to the Institution, was an attempt to erect a new Cabinet of Natural History, in connection with an Astronomical Observatory. Through the generous efforts of Hon. Josiah B. Woods, and the liberality of more than forty gentlemen in the Commonwealth, this object has been accomplished, and the edifice which meets your eyes to-day on an adjoining eminence, and whose proportions and construction I think you will say do honor to the architect and to all concerned in its erection, has been the result, at an expenditure of about nine thousand dollars.

As a consequence of the erection of this Cabinet, a deposit has been made in it of the rich and beautiful collections of Professor Shepard, which are now displayed for examination. They consist of an almost unequalled collection of meteoric stones, by which the mineralogy and geology of other worlds are brought under our eyes: also of a very select and complete collection of simple minerals: an extensive series of geological specimens: and large groups of the different classes of animals. The lower room of the same building has in it, arranged and ticketed, not less than twelve collections in geology, amounting to more than 11,000 specimens.

Nor is this all. For during the last year Professor Adams has made a donation to the college, not only of a suite of some 2000 specimens of the rocks and minerals of Vermont, and numerous specimens of preserved animals, and thousands of insects, but also his superb collection of shells, containing nearly 5000 species, and almost countless varieties;—forming one of the richest conchological collections in the United States. These are now arranged with great neatness in the old College Cabinet, so far as that could contain them. The remainder have been placed upon the floor of the Library, until the time, which I hope may not be far distant,—when the library shall gain strength and numbers sufficient to drive the beautiful intruders from its premises.

Thus, Gentlemen, as our means of exhibiting specimens have increased, through your benefactions, have they flowed in upon us in

wonderful profusion ; so that we are really nearly as much straitened for room for future additions, as before we appealed to your liberality. When you have examined these collections, I think you will agree with me in the opinion, that the specimens belonging to, or deposited in, the cabinet, are nearly ten times as valuable as they were three years ago.

I shall not be able to give as flattering a view of the Observatory. The transit room is indeed furnished with as fine a Transit Instrument, Repeating Circle, and Astronomical Clock, as we could desire. But we have no Telescope with which to grace the pedestal of the tower. We should be very faithless and ungrateful, however, to doubt, that the same Providence, which has done so much for us the past year, will send us a fitting telescope, if it be best for us to have one ; and send it too, just at the right time.

One other donation during the past year should not be forgotten. It consists of real estate in the city of Boston, estimated by the donor, the Hon. Daniel Sears, to be of the value of \$12,000. This with \$10,000 formerly bestowed is to constitute the "*Sears Foundation of Literature and Benevolence.*" And although for the present it does not yield a large income, yet such are the terms on which it is bestowed, that it must ultimately become of immense value to the College : And even now, for several years past, with the addition of \$1000 furnished by John Tappan Esq. for the same purpose, it has enabled us to purchase books enough to prevent our losing sight of the various branches of science, as they rapidly expand by new discoveries.

Now to gentlemen who are familiar with large sums of money, splendid public buildings, and vast collections in natural history, the additions to our means that have been enumerated, may not seem of so great importance as they do to us. We do not boast of them, indeed ; that would be infatuation. But gratitude,—deep sincere gratitude, becomes us ; and we know that we feel it : Gratitude first of all and above all, to God. For we honestly believe, that it was He who put it into your hearts to come to our help. Never, it seems to us, was his special Providence more manifest than in this whole business, from its inception to the present hour. If ever I had doubted God's special agency in influencing the hearts of men to deeds of benevolence, the experience of the last two years would have removed all my skepticism. Permit us then from a full heart, to praise God for our increased means of honoring Him by promoting the cause of education.

But think not because we render our first tribute of thanks to God, that we are less grateful to you. We honor you as the faithful almoners of our Father in heaven: And what higher praise can we bestow? We cannot forget the circumstances under which you came to our help. A great work had been committed to us, but we had not the means of successfully accomplishing it. Promising young men were here, but we could not give them all the facilities which a public education demands in the nineteenth century. We were crippled for the want of pecuniary means; and that was a sufficient reason for the Priest and the Levite to pass by on the other side. But you came to our rescue, *because* we were wounded. And if help in such circumstances does not awaken gratitude, those who are aided, deserve to perish. We well remember the long years of discouragement and toil through which we passed. My predecessor in office, whom I had hoped to see present to-day, and the Trustees of the Institution, who have long been associated with him in its oversight, could tell us many a sad tale on this subject. I could wish, also, that another were here, who for many years sustained a bitter conflict between hope deferred, and the shattered nerves of a diseased constitution; and who sunk at last, in a distant land, before the news reached him that liberal hearts had come to the relief of the beloved institution to which he had devoted the vigor and ripeness of his days. But he had a presentiment of the result. For only a few days before his departure, he said to me with almost prophetic accuracy, "Amherst College will be relieved; Mr. Williston, I think will give it \$50,000; and you will put his name upon it." If human wishes could be gratified, that beloved friend would have been here to-day, to be cheered by the fulfilment of his prediction. But he knows it all, I doubt not: nor can I believe him indifferent to our interests, though now engaged in far higher enterprises.

Think not then, Gentlemen, that you are invited hither to-day, through mere form, for the sake of a mere pageant. If any of you know what it is to labor year after year, in a cause which you feel to be a good and important one, but which is in a depressed condition, and therefore meets not with popular favor; if you know the heart sinking, the mortification, the struggle between duty and inclination, and the alternation of hope and despondency of such a state, then, you can realize our feelings for many a long year. And if you have seen that depressed cause suddenly assume a different aspect, and have felt your lungs breathe more freely, and your heart beat more

lightly, through the liberal aid of some large-souled benefactor, then you can appreciate our feelings to-day. And you can realize how it is, that we have wanted an opportunity publicly to testify our gratitude, and show you the effects of your benefactions.

But highly as we appreciate the liberal aid of our friends, let it not be thought that we imagine all the wants of the Institution to be supplied, and that its instructors may henceforth repose on beds of down, and consider hard labor and strict economy no longer necessary. We have invited you to look around upon this eminence to see the fruits of your donations. But while we hope you will discover some things as they ought to be, it would be strange if those who know what a college in the nineteenth century and in New England needs, should not see many things which require other benefactors as liberal as yourselves to bring them into a proper condition. If you had taken from us the necessity of hard work and rigid economy, we should regard it as a curse instead of a blessing. But you have only put more tools into our hands, to stimulate us to work the harder, because we can now work more advantageously. You have loosened the cord that was almost choking us, and taken off the the incubus that was crushing us. And now we can labor vigorously and cheerfully, because we labor in hope. As to the cause to which we have devoted ourselves, we have never had any misgivings. It was marked out for us by those honest-hearted and noble-minded men, who laid the foundation of the Institution, and carried it forward under so many difficulties. To provide the means of an elevated and thorough literary and scientific education, for those who come hither, was not the chief end they had in view ; though that was an end essential to an ulterior object. To promote the cause of science and literature was also a subordinate, though important end. But to make all science and all literature subservient to the still higher cause of pure religion was their aim, and their prayer. Such too, I doubt not, has been the intention of our more recent benefactors. Indeed one of them,* in offering his rich collections in conchology and entomology to the Trustees, says : "This gift is made with a view to contribute, in some small degree, to the exhibition of the glorious plan of creation, especially of the creation of organic beings, as this exists in the Divine Mind."

When, therefore, we dedicate, as we now do, these new Professorships, this new Cabinet and Observatory, and these new Collections

* Professor Adams.

in Natural History, to an object so transcendent, we know that the cordial Amen is uttered by your hearts, if not by your lips. And I would look upon it as an omen of the acceptance of this consecration, and a pledge of the permanent devotion of our new edifice, to such an object, that it occupies the site of an ancient church, where from generation to generation the inhabitants of Amherst have worshipped God. Palsied be the sacrilegious hands that shall ever desecrate such collections on such a spot, to any inferior object.

MR. CALHOUN'S ADDRESS.

In the name of the Trustees of Amherst College, and by their appointment, I have been deputed to present their thanks and to express their gratitude to the numerous patrons and benefactors of this Institution, for the means, furnished by them, of raising it from decline and depression to its appropriate rank, and to the paths of prosperity, usefulness and honor. The duty, which thus calls us together, is one eminently pleasing and grateful. We cherish the hope, that this may be regarded as an act, not of pretending and spasmodic gladness, nor of casual and merely exhilarating excitement, but as the dictate of the clearest obligation.

This College holds an important position in the land. Established as it is, in the heart of that great valley, to which the public eye has been singularly directed from the commencement of our records, we may look upon it as certain that the importance of this position will be even more than proportionally increased, as generation after generation shall advance to replenish this beautiful domain, to give vigor and influence to the tone of public thinking, and to modify and shape all those elements, which make up the character of a people.

How is this great purpose to be accomplished, but by the combined power of education and christianity? These have made us all that we are: the results are before us. Experience, the best of masters, has taught us the extraordinary adaptedness of these means to the great end. Amongst the modes of applying these means, no one is more prominent, than institutions of learning like the one whose revival and progress we rejoice in to-day. It is then a matter of profoundest moment, whether this College shall flourish, and aid in carrying out the glorious designs of the fathers, who planted free principles upon these western shores, or whether it shall linger in bare existence, or perish from self-exhaustion.

By the generous interposition of the Commonwealth, and by the

yet more generous and energetic efforts of those private individuals who have come munificently to the help of this languishing Institution, in the time of its utmost need, Amherst College stands before the community reassured; reinvested with ample endowments for blessing the community; and we fully believe, fortified in their hearts, affections, and prayers. The noble-spirited donors, to whom I have referred, do not need that their names should be distinctly heralded on this occasion. No public blazonry here can add to the renown which arises from the consciousness of being instrumental in the hands of an over-ruling Providence, in advancing the cause of religion and knowledge among men. They need no letters of commendation from us. Theirs be that ancient compliment, of unequalled force, beauty, and delicacy, and with vehement feeling be it applied, "Ye, are our epistles, written in our hearts, known and read of all men."

But there is a thank-offering, which we cannot fail to make here, now, and at all times, and in the most distinct and emphatic manner, to that Divine Being, whose Providence is over all, and in whom, under all circumstances, in the darkest periods of the College, its guardians have reposed unfaltering trust. Be it ever the eminent distinction of this Institution, that here is its strong hold. If to instruct the understanding, to purify the heart, to elevate the character, to make man wiser and better, and to contribute towards fitting him for the enjoyments of a higher and holier, an immortal existence, be the great and true design of such an Institution, then in whom can all hopes center but in Him, whose "word is very pure,—the entrance of whose words giveth light; it giveth understanding to the simple."

Influenced by these emotions, and actuated, we trust, by generous impulses, and by motives bearing no stain of selfishness or sordidness, we have come up hither to mingle our congratulations with the friends of the College, on the changed aspect of its affairs and prospects. And why is it that we rejoice that this Seminary has found favor with the intelligent, affluent, and far sighted, who have been the agents in dispelling the gloom, that hung over it for so long a period? why has this day of jubilee been set apart? It is not merely that the Institution is relieved from its financial embarrassments, eased of that burden of debt, which had nearly pressed it down to the dust, and escaped from an incessant drain of its resources, energies, and vitality. It is not, much as that is, that a feeling of self-respect is, if it be not right to say restored, certainly invigorated and animated. It is not, still more, that the accomplished and faithful corps of instructors are permitted

once more to breathe the air of freedom, and to break away from a position, which was compelling them, from a stern and noble sense of duty, to do an act of unquestioned injustice to themselves. Much as there is in all this to cause rejoicing, yet this might be consistent with selfish designs and motives of personal ambition. Why then do we rejoice? Do I utter a sentiment, which does not find a response in the heart of every one who hears me, when I say, that we rejoice because we now stand upon a vantage ground, which enables us with an erect front, and with a humble trust in God, to go forward in the work of *doing good*, with the assured hope, that the fruits of that work will be seen in the blessings conferred upon the community, in the church and in the state? This Institution might, at the lowest ebb of its affairs, have been abandoned; and all connected with it might have betaken themselves to other and perhaps wider fields of action and of enterprise: the dimmed star might have gone out in utter darkness; but who, of all associated in its management, could have looked back upon that darkness with an untroubled conscience? Who, possessing the heart of a man, or the soul of a christian, could have incurred, or shared in, the responsibility of so disastrous a result? But what prevented that result,—a result not inconsistent with the highest character of ordinary worldliness,—what prevented that result? I appeal to the late Head of the college,—“*clarum et venerabile nomen* :” I appeal to the present Head of the College and his worthy associates: I appeal to the Board of Trustees, for the truth of what I say, that nothing prevented that result but an unwavering trust in God. And I do not hesitate to take this public occasion to express my own grateful sense of the privilege of being permitted to see,—may it be that I have felt also,—and now to bear witness to, the beauty, the calmness, and the power of that trust.

Amherst College is then once more, what it was originally designed to be, a school of all good learning, and linked to all the purposes of good to a great and flourishing community. What a beautiful illustration is here of the true principles of a just Public Economy. The industry, and skill, and sagacity, which have been faithfully and judiciously applied to the accumulation of private wealth, now pour back their varied generous contributions for the improvement, the refinement, and the adornment of that land, which has been at once the scene and the witness of these noble aims and efforts. Here indeed is the whole science of what is improperly called Political Economy presented in all its practical bearings, and in its fullest length and

breadth. Individual fortunes created by well-directed individual energies; and then distributed for individual and social welfare, and to build up the intellectual, moral, and religious character of the community! And see too, in this important connection, how far the principles of this noble science, when rightly viewed, are carried out. Are these public-spirited individuals, who thus by the power of money give vitality to a dormant institution, alone illustrating and acting upon these principles? They are adding largely, it is true, to the public wealth: but where and what is the institution itself, which they lift up from the dust? Where are the instructors, and what are they doing, who take charge of the minds that are brought together through the impulse communicated by these material means and products,—the contributions of these donors? In moulding, deciphering, and drawing out the power of these minds, are they not adding, and to an extent not to be measured, to the wealth, the intellectual not less than the material resources, of the community? The technical science, as it has been and still is taught amongst us, makes the one of these classes the contributor to public wealth, and not the other. Surely, surely, it is not so. And it is the highest distinction, which wealth, strictly so called, can gather around itself, that it does give the impulse, of which I speak, and which we all this day feel. The love of money, by that authority which is supreme, has been called the root of all evil: under the chastening and guiding influences of that Power which makes this declaration, money may be made and is made the root, the impulse of all good. What a glory encircles material wealth, when it moves the world in the path of advancement and improvement, and in all the ways and arts of peace! But what untold and inconceivable horrors cluster around it, when used, as the history of the world assures us it has been used, to promote the purposes of private discord and public war! I honor the men: I know no language strong or glowing enough to express the feelings with which I honor the men, who contribute of their wealth to bless their country and to bless the world. Be it, that the world is at last awakening universally to the true use of wealth, and to the true end in the pursuit of it. Thus appropriated, wealth partakes of the quality, which the great poet attributes to mercy, “it blesseth him that gives, and him that takes.”

The Saviour of mankind, at that interesting moment,—the most interesting in the whole current of time,—when he ascended from earth to Heaven, uttered his final farewell message to the world, that sol-

emn injunction, "Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature." Where is the mind that has ever yet taken in the full import of this startling message. What mind can go to the extent of its requirements, or can contemplate the means necessary to its accomplishment. It carries us back to man fallen from his original high estate, to man debased by bad passions, untoward appetites, sensual propensities; to man, in a word, imbued and incrustated with ignorance and sin. Where is the power that can make its way to the mind, the soul, the heart, and find them in a proper condition to receive the message of which I speak, the words of divine truth? The power of God can do it; but liberal are the human means, that are to be instrumental to this vast purpose, with the superadded aid of Him who is above? Two thousand years ago the injunction of the Great Teacher was delivered to the world. And up to this moment what effects have followed? How, for nearly twenty centuries, has this injunction been obeyed; and what is the obedience, which, in the very time that is passing, is rendered to it? Is there less ignorance now, less debasement, less sensuality, less sin? Is there less scope for the operation of that injunction? What has the power of education been doing in this long interval,—and what is it now doing? Who has been adequately enforcing the power of Christianity? Education and Christianity are the great agents for the redemption of the world, disclosed in the valedictory of the Saviour. And where, through the sixty generations that have risen, acted, and gone, have been the silver and the gold, the material wealth of the world, the elements and the sinews of its power? How have they been applied,—to bless or to curse the race,—to minister to the improvement of man or to his destruction,—to subserve the great purposes of existence, to develop the divinity within us, or to feed and pamper the selfish, the sordid, the devilish? Again and again, I ask, how has the word of God been obeyed, "Go ye into all the world." That word has reference to man's higher nature: and has not man's higher nature been almost universally overlooked; and has not his animal nature been as universally cared for, cherished and indulged?

Believe not, that I am endeavoring to divert your attention from the godly purpose, which has brought you together to-day. You are here to rejoice that the intellectual and moral armory of this College, is refurnished with the equipments of education, with the means of doing something to bless the world, and to improve the condition of man; and that this has been done through the instrumentality of

those, who, whilst dealing with the material, have not forgotten the immortal; whose minds have taken liberal and christian views; whose hearts have been expanded with benevolence, and whose souls are the abode of what forms the "hiding of their power," love to their fellow men. Behold then the field. Remember the injunction "Go ye into all the world." Look to the breaking down of the strong holds of all that is evil; look to the building up of all that can cement and fortify the manly, the intellectual, the moral, the spiritual. Behold the field. That field is to be won alone by the holy alliance of education and Christianity. We have heard of holy alliances formed for the maintenance, by war and bloodshed, of the balance of political power. Let the world gather together to an alliance that shall establish a balance of moral power through the influence of that blessed anthem, which for almost two thousand years has been trodden under foot,—“peace on earth and good will to man.” Education is the means to be used as the pioneer in this great and noble work. Education uniformly opens the way to Christianity. They are one and indivisible.

And now I say to the patrons and instructors of this youthful and vigorous institution, behold your commission. Divine in its origin, beneficent in its purpose, it reaches to all the wants of man. I would gladly, if I could, impress upon all, the extent and importance of this vast enterprise. It is because I totally distrust my ability to do so, that I present to you the words of Him, who spoke as never man spoke. I urge it upon you as the great thesis, which should engage earnestly your best thoughts. It is a common topic to dwell upon the value of education; but is it felt by any of us in all its vastness? I am fully persuaded, that even in this land, we are barely beginning to appreciate it. Here in this college is a central point, from which a true and fervent spirit on this subject should go forth;—and that with renewed and redoubled energy. The business of this place is education, in one of its leading and most important departments. The first great purpose of education here must ever be, to train and discipline the mind, and to invigorate its powers for active and efficient effort to teach it to think, and to act on other minds, with distinctness, directness, and point. Looking at ourselves in a national light, we are most unconscionably a talking people. It will not be regarded I am sure, as libellous on my part to affirm, that a very large proportion of what is said amongst us, I mean on public occasions and in public deliberative assemblies, is said to no good purpose, and this for want of terse-

ness, conciseness, energy, and pith. We are in the habit of covering too much ground. The point aimed at, is lost sight of in the dust and smoke and din of the warfare of words. I will not speak here of the College or of its habits of study; but in after life, when distracting cares and anxieties and multifarious concerns invade the mind and disturb its quiet, the faculty of *attention* in too many cases ceases to be cultivated; and hence comes invariably the result I have just indicated. I single out the faculty of attention from the rest of the mental powers, because, in my own observation, I have been in the habit of tracing failures to produce results aimed at, to the want or the abandonment of cultivation here, more than to any other cause; and because such is the tendency amongst us to strive after the accomplishment of a multiplicity of purposes, that failure must necessarily ensue, unless this important faculty be sedulously and steadfastly trained and cherished. Here is the place, in the department of education pursued here, to establish this faculty, in its entire strength and supremacy, in the position which belongs to it. Let not only this and all the other powers of the mind be duly disciplined here; but let the importance of maintaining them in their appropriate discipline in after life, be earnestly and constantly enforced and a great leading purpose of education will be fully carried out.

Another prominent design of education here is, to imbue the mind with sound principles, with just, noble, and generous sentiments, and with all the varied resources of a cultivated intellect. Intelligence acquired, and made the subject of thoughtful investigation, under the guidance of that training already spoken of, fits the man to start favorably in the race for usefulness. But alas! what counteracting tendencies and forces are to be met, resisted, and vanquished, before the race is more than fairly entered upon! Indolence, the love of pleasure, the love of distinction too, the indulgence of vanity and self sufficiency, eagerness to jump to conclusions, to gain the goal by an electric stride,—these all are sore combatants,—too often victorious over all opposition. How necessary, then, that a calm and resolute spirit should here be infused! and how can this be done effectually but by implanting a deep sense of accountability to God for the use of all the powers, and for the diligent improvement of all means and appointments,—the value of time, the claims of duty, a heedful submission to all the monitions of conscience. When we look at education in this light, we are constrained ever to regard it as only begun, never finished, and never on this side of the grave to be finished.

In reference to the sentiments, with which the mind should be imbued, those especially which partake of the character of manliness and generosity, very greatly to be lamented is it, that the ancient classic authors have fallen so extensively into disuse. They are to be regarded, and probably ever will be so, as models of taste. In no way can the intellect be so thoroughly adorned and cultivated as by giving days and nights of patient toil to the mastery of the purer products of Grecian and Roman mind. The system of study, amid the groves and walks of the ancient Academia, is unknown to us with anything like accuracy: but we do know enough to be assured, that the education of a few minds was carried to such a pains taking point of perfection, that belief would be severely taxed but for the results and fruits, which have come down to us. Singularly adapted to us as citizens of a great Republic are these remains of antiquity, abounding, as they do indeed abound, with the development and investigation of free principles, dressed in a drapery of surpassing beauty, and ennobled with chaste and invigorated eloquence, they are amongst the peerless treasures of the world. The views which they present of liberty are of liberty at once chastened and regulated. The study of the great Orators of antiquity would put an effectual check upon liberty running madly into licentiousness, and upon the wantonness that makes the demagogue. To these evils we are singularly exposed; they are increasing and extending amongst us with a virulence, that indicates deep seated disease. Where can a more effectual remedy be found than in the revived study of those models of pure taste and refined sentiment, which the ancient classics afford? The time may have gone by for the application of any hopeful remedy: the infusion perhaps pervades the mass too intimately to be extracted or neutralized. The language and the thoughts of our public men in many parts of the land bear marks, not to be mistaken, of this type of disease: but here, in our own New England, let us hope that the evil may be checked in its progress and averted. A taste for this branch of study must be encouraged and cherished in the College and by the example and counsels of the friends of pure learning amongst us, or we shall be overrun with literary Mormonism. The decay of true taste will necessarily be accompanied by a decay of just and true sentiment; and all purity will come to be regarded as affectation and pretension. To him, who ministers at the altars of a pure and undefiled religion I need not urge the importance of these considerations. I bespeak only the influence of his unvarying example. Let not the

study of the classics be confined to the College. There is indeed its appropriate sphere : there the love of it should be nurtured and established. But let it go, with all who are imbued with it, through life. Let each succeeding day have a portion however limited, given to this delightful and important purpose. Were this the proper occasion, and were there time, for a full defence of the study of the ancient classics, I would gladly advert to several other kindred topics : I would especially say something of that cheap literature, which has come in upon us like a flood, answering no purpose but to cheapen and debase the character of all who venture upon its polluted waters. Purified, thorough, systematic general education must be the barrier against this threatening inundation. The heads and the hearts of our youth must be shielded here and all around by those who stand upon the watch-tower.

I have a word to say of a study eminently appropriate to the College, inexpressibly important to those who live in the light of free institutions,—I mean the study of the Bible. I do not speak here of that highest use of the Bible, to which the humble and reverent christian is accustomed, as the way, the truth, and the life ; as opening the consummations of happiness and holiness in another world. I speak of it as a divine study indeed, but as applicable to human purposes. The Bible contains the best code of Republican principles, which has ever been furnished to man from any source. Take the history of the Hebrew Commonwealth and the precepts of freedom, which are scattered in great profusion over the pages of the New Testament, and you have all that is necessary to assure to man the enjoyment of a well regulated liberty and of well balanced institutions. But you have something more, infinitely more important than even this. You have in the Bible the only means, by which man can be enabled to render himself fit and worthy permanently to maintain free institutions. The power of human passion, in the ten thousand forms in which it is accustomed to show itself, constitutes the deadliest foe to political liberty ; and in the past history of the world has uniformly conducted liberty to its grave. The Bible points out the only way, in which this power of human passion, essentially and otherwise incurably selfish, can be checked and controlled. We are witnesses in our day of the efforts, honest and well meaning undoubtedly, that have been made and are still making, to overcome the evils that thwart the progress of liberty, and render its blessings so extensively unavailable. What are the various social systems, and systems of separate communities, that have risen, flourished for a brief space, and then

have rapidly declined and decayed? They have only served to show, that a better way is needed, without being able to indicate what that better way is. What are all the attempts made and making in France to regulate labor, and to place it upon a basis consistent with the principle of freedom, and which threaten a disruption of the political fabric now rising up amid the quicksands of that heaving and agitated land? What are all the movements, the world over, which are straining so many minds and hearts after a foundation for liberty to stand upon? They are all but the "*experimentum crucis*;" they are putting man's intellect to its last and severest test to find a foothold for freedom around and within the vortex of human passion. They are the futile attempts "*eripere sceptrum tyrannis*," without the "*fulmen coelo*." Had that divine message, to which I have before alluded, which the Saviour gave to man, been inscribed upon the world's banner, and formed the steady motive to human effort: instead of twenty centuries of war and desolation intervening, we should now be witnesses of a glorious exhibition of man, on every portion of earth's surface, standing erect in that liberty with which Heaven maketh free.

Those illustrious men, whose lives can never be enough studied and commemorated, who founded these States more than two centuries ago, fleeing from civil and religious oppression, brought with them hither the great and true principle of liberty. Their noble minds grasped the truth in all its comprehensiveness; for they planted themselves upon the platform of freedom divine. What a debt of gratitude, under God, do we owe to the Puritans. Not a day nor an hour do I live without an increased admiration of their character, their sagacity, their honesty, their power. If *we* enjoy liberty in any measure approaching to purity, to the Puritans and to the principles of the Puritans, we owe it. These principles were imbedded in the deep yet transparent truths of the Bible. "Let nothing be done through strife or vain glory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves."—"Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others." Try all the schemes of Republican liberty by this test, and the reason why they have failed altogether, or have not answered fully the goodly purposes intended or aimed at, will be at once apparent. Let the Bible be studied as the true text book of Republicanism. Let christian liberty be the liberty we seek to establish. No other will sustain us. No other has in it any such sustaining power. The Bible alone teaches us that all men are free, not nominally but really free: it teaches us also how to treat all others as being free. It implants the disposition to regard others not

less than ourselves. "He that ruleth over men must be just, ruling in the fear of God." Does any human code embrace such a maxim as this? Is this any where made the practical test in the selection of rulers among men? Until it is so, will there ever be a sound, well regulated liberty? "Do unto others as ye would that others should do unto you." Let such a maxim as this actuate the hearts of a people, and the choice of rulers would be "an end of all strife."

I dwell not upon the other numerous practical purposes, to which the study of the Bible may be applied. I offer what has now been said, simply as a specimen of those purposes. I do not deem it necessary, nor, were it so, have I the command of time, to enter upon farther remarks upon the course of study appropriate to this place. These remarks are all of a general and practical nature. I go not into the consideration of systems or modes of study. I desire only to express my own conviction, that education in all its departments should be adapted to the times in which we live. I have spoken particularly of the great principle of freedom, to the development, operations, and bearings of which so much of thought and investigation is now given almost universally amongst men. This must long continue to be the leading topic with all minds, so far as we can form any definite judgment of the aspect of human affairs. All things are most evidently tending to a great conflict, in which the prominent element must be the power of Christianity,—the pure and humble faith and practice of the Bible. This conflict I do not pretend to present as a new one. Ages ago it was commenced. Often has it been carried on with energy; oftener has the progress of the great principles contended for, been retarded and arrested. War has been the leading obstacle, giving strength to the arm of despotism, and crushing in its march every germ of freedom. The generation that is passing,—those who have lived and acted during any considerable portion of the last thirty years, all who can look back with fresh thoughts to the battle of Waterloo,—these have grown up to the glorious prerogative and inheritance of peace. And it is under the influence of a thirty year's peace, that the world is now assuming to speak. This period has been marked by the power of thought,—by the power of education,—by the power of benevolence,—to sum up all, by the spreading power of Christianity. The power of education especially, in some one or other of its multifarious forms, has every where planted itself. It has almost throughout the world begun its work. What are the great associations for purposes of philanthropic effort, which stud the circle that arches the limits of the present generation, but so many

schools of practical wisdom, shedding their blessings and their light wherever there is darkness to be dispelled, wherever there is a human heart to be reached? What are those Missionary Stations, that now dot the surface of the earth, so that day after day, as the hours and minutes pass, one uninterrupted voice of supplication ascends from them to God for his blessing upon the wayward children of men,—what are these but so many schools of divinest philosophy? This goodly heritage, which man possesses, is every where traversed by the sons and the daughters of a holy and life-giving philanthropy, bearing the means and appliances to elevate the race from debasement and ignorance to knowledge and holiness. The Bible! who can comprehend the achievements it has made in the new forms which have been given to it only during the generation, that has not yet quitted the scenes of active life? These are some of the elements which enter into the conflict of which I have spoken; these are the weapons, with which it is to be carried on. Education and Christianity? what an impulse are they giving to men's minds! They are rapidly shifting that balance of power, which has so long stood intrenched by bayonets and gunpowder. They are loosening the hold of governments upon the people, because brute force can no longer keep mind in its chains. And if thus much has been accomplished under the influences of peace, and with the slight aid which has as yet been offered by education and christianity, what may we not expect, when this great combination of power shall have given, as with the blessing of God it soon will give, the entire ascendancy to educated mind and cultivated heart, and when man shall ever be free! This is the conflict, which the world has now entered upon: and the means I have described are the means by which it is to be conducted, and by which the triumph is to be insured.

Now then is the time for those who have anything to do with education, to put themselves to the work with unwonted earnestness. Let it be felt as the great leading interest of the world,—as that on which, in God's Providence, man's destiny hangs. I repeat it, that we cannot dis sever education and christianity. There may indeed be the one without the other. But malign in the extreme must ever be the influences of intellect, unsubdued, unchastened, unsanctified, and therefore aiming only at selfish purposes, cold, cheerless and heartless in all its associations. This is not the intellect that can redeem the world from any of its evils. Of such intellect, there have been abundant specimens: that which shone with such terrific lustre anterior to, and during the earlier stages of the first French Revolution,

may have been permitted by Heaven as a warning, that true reform can never come from such a quarter.

Let there be felt in this College, under the new and encouraging prospects that opens before it, a fervid educational spirit. Let this spirit be greatly, constantly cherished. It should never be regarded as sufficient, that ample justice is done in the way of instruction, to ingenuous youth, who come to these Halls to be prepared for the ordinary business and conflicts of life. Aside from this, vastly and pre-eminently important as it is to become deeply versed in all the learning of the usual Collegiate course, there should be superadded a full and faithful view of the pressing demand which the country and the world now have upon the sons to do, what the fathers have left undone. The world has long been slumbering, or has been active, mainly, for evil; and difficult indeed has it been to induce the educated to enter into the field of conflict, where discouragements were presenting themselves at every turn. Now there is work on all sides to be done: man is every where to be educated and christianized. The great barriers that have paralyzed effort and impeded progress, have been forced through, and the pathway is open from sea to sea,—from continent to continent,—from land's end to land's end. Behold wherever the sun shines and the rain descends, fields ready for the seed,—the seed of human knowledge,—the seed of divine cultivation. In time past colleges have been the resort of not a few, who have been known, recognized, and only not absolutely encouraged as drones in the hive. Time was, that the public mind identified an idle life and a life in a College. Let it be understood,—that is too feeble a word,—let it be felt and seen, that that time has gone by. Energetic and whole-hearted work is now demanded of all. Remember the commission,—*Go ye into all the world*. Improve the condition of man. Wherever there may be forlornness and sorrow, administer consolation: wherever depression and poverty, lend a helping hand: wherever there is a sin, invade it,—probe it,—gently but effectually: wherever there is ignorance, enlighten it. In that vast duty of infusing the element of christianity into the principle of freedom, let there here be taken high ground. We stand within the atmosphere of the ancient Puritanism: let us not be heedless of its glories; let us not be faithless to the trust it devolves upon us,—heightened as that trust is by all that we see around us.

But I must quit these animating topics, and draw towards a conclusion.

Let me say in view of what has been uttered, to the patrons,

the benefactors of this college, how opportune, how Providential have been their benefactions. At no moment could generosity have been more strikingly exhibited: at no moment could this college have been rendered more eminently capable of good. Receive into true hearts the gratitude, which, we trust, flows from true hearts. Be the obligations unceasingly appreciated and lived up to, which now rests upon those who have any part in the management of the affairs of the College. Let all remember what is due to the benefactors, what is due to themselves, what is due to the youth who come here, what is due to the country, to the world, and to God.

Mr. President, and Gentlemen of the Board of Trustees,—I have now discharged, in however imperfect a manner, the duty devolved upon me by your appointment. I have communicated to the benefactors and friends of the College, the expression of your thanks and gratitude. We enter now upon new scenes. The waning fortunes of this Institution, have for years brought to our hearts gloom, despondency, almost despair. Heaven again beams upon us with blessings. To Heaven let us not cease to offer the incense of thanksgiving. Nor would we fail to recognize and to be grateful for the beneficence of our ancient Commonwealth. Blessings ever crown her. She has acted up to a noble obligation. We read the language she has placed in her Constitution—"It shall be the duty of legislatures and magistrates, in all future periods of this Commonwealth, to cherish the interests of literature and the the sciences, and all seminaries of them; to countenance and inculcate the principles of humanity and general benevolence, public and private charity, industry and frugality, honesty and punctuality; sincerity, good humor, and all social affections, and generous sentiments among the people" Noble, noble sentiments! Long may they be remembered and cherished! Never may they be forgotten by the Commonwealth,—the Fathers, the sons, the children, the children's children,—to the latest generation! We render our thankfulness and gratitude to all our benefactors. We leave behind us the night of gloom through which we have passed. We receive the College into the fellowship of new and animated hopes. The massive structures, upon which are inscribed the names of the generous donors, rising up in the midst of this landscape,—these hills and vallies,—of unsurpassing grandeur and beauty,—are now dedicated to the cause of science and truth. Long, ever may they stand thus dedicated. Here may science remain tributary to virtue, freedom, religion. Here may there be inscribed on all these walls and in every heart,"—*Christo et ecclesiæ.*"

ADDRESSES AT THE PUBLIC DINNER.

After the preceding addresses were delivered in the Chapel, an invitation was given to the audience to examine the new Edifice and the Collections in Natural History. Subsequently a large number of gentlemen and ladies partook of a dinner at the public house, when a number of letters from persons invited, who were not present, were read, and several gentlemen were introduced by the President and responded in sentiments too interesting to be lost. They are given below as far as possible, without attempting to follow the precise order in which they were introduced.

The President first referred to HON. WILLIAM B. CALHOUN, and said: We have seen him in various stations and relations: now as Speaker of the Massachusetts House of Representatives: now in the Halls of Congress: now as President of the Massachusetts Senate: now as Secretary of the Commonwealth: now as the zealous agriculturalist: and to-day as the scholar and elegant orator; and in all of these stations we can say of him, '*Nihil tetigit, quod non ornavit.*'

Mr Calhoun replied, by expressing his sincere thanks for the kind manner in which his address had been received; and testified anew to the deep interest he felt in whatever might contribute to the prosperity of the College, and the well being of the dwellers in this noble valley, where it is situated.

Lest it should seem to the readers of this pamphlet, that the noble and self-denying men who laid the foundations of the College were forgotten on this occasion, it is proper to say, that the following remarks were intended to introduce the only two surviving Trustees, who have held that office from the beginning, and who were expected to be present, viz: Rev. Dr. John Fiske and Rev. Joseph Vaill.

Of the fourteen Trustees of this College who began to build it in 1821, with Dr. Moore as President, only two survive, and I am happy to see them both present to-day. One of them Mr. Vaill has been

a Trustee ever since ; and both of them are able to say of all the important events in the history of the College, *quorum pars fui*. We hope, therefore, that they will give us some idea of the sacrifices and labors which have been necessary to sustain and carry forward the Institution, and bear testimony to the character of the venerable men, of whom we can say,—Honor to the memory of those who laboured and suffered and prayed so much for us !

Another of the Trustees, who was present, was then called upon.

We are happy to see among us a member of the Board of Trustees, who has been for several years absent, not only from this place, but from the country. I hope he will let us know whether his foreign tour has diminished his respect for, and sense of the value of, the institutions of New England. I would welcome Governor Armstrong to a place, where, in past time, he has so often offered his counsel and aid.

Governor Armstrong replied as follows :

MR. PRESIDENT :—

I thank you for the kindness which has induced you to apologize for my absence from Amherst for several years past, by alluding to my recent voyage to Europe. But you will pardon me if I decline the invitation to narrate at this time to this audience, any of the trifling incidents which befel me on that voyage. Since it that I have returned to our own country with unabated attachment, and with unabated confidence in its institutions. There we see palaces for the nobles : here we have school houses for the people. There we see temples, and ceremonies, and priests in long garments. Here we have village temples, the Sabbath bell, and the New England pastor.

I thank you for the opportunity of participating in the scenes of this joyous day, and of mingling my congratulations with all the friends of Amherst College in view of its present condition and its future prospects. I rejoice particularly in the *spirit* which has pervaded all the exercises on this occasion. It augurs good things. The founders and benefactors of this seminary sought to establish here a college for the people ; where in present and in after times should be reared up men of sense and men of piety, to propagate at home and on foreign shores the principles of the gospel. It was in their hearts that this college should be for Christ and the church. May this hope never be disappointed.

Let religion and science, piety and knowledge, go together. While the mountains and the mines reveal to your eager researches their history and their treasures, may unsurpassing diligence be manifested in working that Mine from which is obtained “ durable riches,” and in diving into those depths from which is drawn the pearl of great price.

Who does not rejoice to behold the beautiful structure which crowns one of your beautiful hills, who of us does not heartily approve of the purposes to which it is devoted ! yet Sir, I trust you will allow me to express the hope that while your pupils gaze with wonder upon the works of the Lord, in the mechanism of

the heavens ; while they admire the glorious lights that make known the depths of space, they may never, no never, neglect to meditate with love and gratitude upon the Star of Bethlehem.

A letter from DR. HUMPHREY gave rise to this introduction :

In this letter we have the fundamental principles on which the College was founded, viz: trust in God, and a benevolent regard for man ; and also its leading object, viz. : to prepare men for usefulness by thorough literary discipline. Nothing but such principles and such an object, could have carried Dr. Humphrey, and the Trustees associated with him, through the many trying exigencies of the first twenty years of the College. Let the time never come, when their successors shall swerve from these principles, or the noble example that has been set before them !

PITTSFIELD, JUNE 16, 1848.

REV. DR. HITCHCOCK,—DEAR SIR :

I hasten to acknowledge your kind invitation to meet the friends and patrons of Amherst College, on the 28th inst., for the purposes mentioned in your note. It will, I am sure, be an exceedingly interesting occasion ; and I should love to participate in the greetings and congratulations, in the midst of which so many hearts will leap for joy.

"The Lord hath done great things for" Amherst College, "whereof we are glad." He hath remembered it in its low and embarrassed state, and raised up friends for its effectual relief. First of all, our fervent thanksgivings are due to Him, whose are the silver and the gold ; and then, our grateful acknowledgments, to the stewards, who, with his high approbation, I nothing doubt, have contributed so liberally, to place the institution on a stable foundation.

Though I cannot be present in person, my heart will be with you. "It is a good thing to give thanks unto the Lord, and to talk of all his wondrous works." The foundations of Amherst College were laid in prayer and faith ; and how would those good men, its earliest and fastest friends, who have departed, rejoice with those who survive, could they come back and witness "what God hath wrought."

Their aim was, to build up an institution for the church, "upon the foundation of the Apostles and Prophets, Jesus Christ being the chief corner stone," and we believe that God heard their prayer. "Other safer foundation can no man lay," and from this may it never be shaken.

May a double portion of that wisdom which is from above, be imparted to its trustees and teachers ; may the rain of righteousness descend upon it, as in years that are past, and still more copiously. May the streams which flow from it, not only make glad the cities of our God at home ; but continue to flow into the parched places of the wilderness, till every land shall be watered, "from the river of God, which is full of water." With my best regards to the Gentlemen who have "built you a synagogue" and who are coming to dedicate it,

I am respectfully yours,

H. HUMPHREY.

A letter was next read from a former graduate, with a few prefatory remarks :

Of the Alumni of this College she can say, as the noble yet not affluent mother once did of her sons, "these are my jewels." One of these who left us twenty-four years ago, and whose name is familiar to the savans of Europe as well as of this country, we had hoped to see here to-day. But in his absence I know that you will be glad to hear from DR. BELA B. EDWARDS.

ANDOVER, JUNE, 26, 1848.

REV. PRESIDENT HITCHCOCK,--DEAR SIR :

It is with sincere regret that I must decline your kind invitation to be present on Wednesday. Indispensable engagements will detain me here. In common with multitudes I rejoice that you have been so favored in the Providence of God as to finish your edifice and fill it with such inestimable treasures. Nothing could be more appropriate than such a collection in the Connecticut valley, so full of beauty, so crowded with visible and tangible proof of Divine wisdom, where the natural sciences can be studied under such preëminent advantages. I rejoice, also, from my belief that these studies are specially fitted to liberalize the mind and bind together the scholars of our country and of all nations. No persons in England,—where illiberal feelings towards us have too much prevailed,—have done more to cement the two countries together than the students of natural science. None there feel or express for us more generous and ennobling sentiments than some of the leading members of the Royal and the Geological Societies. One of them, before he showed me the wonders of science which adorn his dwelling, pointed out what was particularly precious to him,—an admirable portrait of Prof. Silliman. The president of the Geological Society said in my hearing, that he honored the city of Boston, that it was doing more for the cause of popular education than all England. A third individual who had traveled many years in the East, remarked to me, that no men were more respected for their knowledge and gentlemanly character than American Missionaries. The principal paper read before the Royal Society in the evening when I was present, was written by an American physician on the coast of Africa.

Any thing which removes a prejudice, or promotes a kindly feeling between us and our parent State, is a matter for heartfelt gratitude. England, with all her faults, is a noble land. No where is there so much moral worth, such attractive specimens of social and christian character, so much that adorns humanity. With England and the United States are bound up to a great degree the hopes of the world. Long may the scholars of the two countries love and labor like brethren. Rich and boundless fields of knowledge are still open before them all.

Again expressing my sorrow that I cannot be with you on Wednesday, and hoping that every auspicious circumstance may combine to render the day pleasant and the occasion interesting.

I am yours very faithfully,

B. B. EDWARDS.

P. S. When your new building for the Library is completed,—fire-proof, a fine

specimen of architecture, and filled with 20,000 new books, as I presume it will be, I will promise without fail to be present. Please inform me of the time of its dedication.

Dr. Edwards' enquiry in his postscript was not answered at the time it was read: but upon longer consideration, we think it safe to say, that *if Providence permit*, the new Library Building will be dedicated on the 4th of July, 1850: or if necessary to delay longer, due notice will be given of the time.

The Donors to the new Cabinet and Observatory, whether by money or specimens, were alluded to as follows:

In St. Paul's church in London, is an inscription intended for Sir Christopher Wren, the famous architect, which expresses a good deal in a few words; and I would apply it to those who have contributed to our new Cabinet and Observatory, as well as to the architect and the builders. *Si monumentum quæris, circumspice.*

The most munificent benefactor of the college was spoken of in the following manner:

We are honored to-day by the presence of a gentleman, who, for several years, has been in the habit of carrying on a double system of manufactures. With the results of ordinary manufactures, I mean money, he has established other manufactories, where mind is the raw material, and cultivated and polished thought the finished article; where *our sons may become as plants, grown up in their youth, and our daughters as corner stones polished after the similitude of a palace.* For this invention the public voice has decreed, and the voice of posterity will decree, that the name of WILLISTON shall be engraven, not on marble or steel, but on the grateful heart of the world.

Mr. Williston made the following reply:

MR. PRESIDENT:

I rise not to make a speech but to express the gratitude, which I feel for the *very* honorable mention, which has been made of my name on this occasion. I cannot but esteem it both a *privilege*, and a *duty* incumbent on those gentlemen, who have been prospered, (by the blessing of God), as manufacturers, or in other business pursuits, that they should contribute a portion of their wealth for the establishment of "those manufactories" where, (as has fitly been said), "*mind is the raw material, and polished and cultivated thought the finished article.*"

Sir, I feel myself most happy to meet, on this pleasant occasion, many distinguished gentlemen from abroad, the friends of science, and of religion; and I cannot fail of expressing my happiness, in meeting so many of the friends and patrons of Amherst College, with their wives and daughters. I cannot say, Mr. President, how much I am gratified, in contemplating the present and prospective prosperity

of the Institution, which I have known in its days of darkness and of poverty; and to which it has been my happiness in connection with many others, to afford some relief.

Sir, This beloved Institution was founded in prayer; it has been blessed by God, with numerous revivals of religion,—it has always been, and I trust, it ever will be, the handmaid of sound learning and of true religion.

The President next gave an account of the circumstances that led him to apply to the HON. JOSIAH B. WOODS, to undertake the work of procuring funds for the Cabinet and Observatory. Mr. Woods finally said, "I'll try"; as did Col. Miller, when asked whether he could take a post at the battle of Niagara. Both did try and succeeded. The one strewed the ground with the dead and wounded, made many widows and orphans, and acquired the reputation of a brave soldier. The other has had the satisfaction of seeing an edifice erected and devoted to-day, with its rich contents, to the cause of science and religion; and thus shall its influence be to enlighten and bless mankind, instead of destroying them. Who then is entitled to the highest honor and gratitude, the hero of Niagara, or the enlightened and persevering Manufacturer of Eastern Hampshire? I know who will be most honored here, and I think I know what will be the verdict of posterity.

Mr. Woods responded as follows :

MR. PRESIDENT :

I presume it will not be expected, nor do I deem it proper, under the present circumstances, to attempt an extended reply to the remarks by which you have brought my name to the notice of this audience. But I feel that I should be doing great injustice to my deep sense of obligation, if I were to allow this opportunity to pass without tendering to you my sincere and heartfelt acknowledgments for the very kind and flattering manner in which you have been pleased to speak of myself and my humble efforts to promote the interests of Amherst College.

A letter from HON. DAVID SEARS was introduced as follows :

In the Astronomical Observatory at Cambridge is a massive tower, built solid of Quincy granite, called the "Sears' Tower"; which sustains one of the most splendid telescopes in the world. But in the "Sears Foundation of Literature and Benevolence" in Amherst College, we have a more enduring structure: "*monumentum aere perennius*": imo vero etiam, *saxo* perennius.

NEWPORT, R. I., JUNE 20, 1848.

REV. EDWARD HITCHCOCK, PRESIDENT OF AMHERST COLLEGE,

HONORED AND DEAR SIR:—I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of

your letter of the 5th instant, inviting me to visit Amherst on the 28th of June, to examine the new building which contains your Cabinet of Natural History, and to join in services appropriate to the occasion.

I regret that circumstances oblige me to deprive myself of this pleasure. I should rejoice to mingle my congratulations with yours at the bright day which is now dawning on the College, and at the prospect of its increased usefulness.

It is the peculiar characteristic of Massachusetts to give encouragement to learning, and to cherish her literary Institutions. It is a sentiment which has grown with her growth, and strengthened with her strength, and almost marks her as a distinct people. From the landing of their Forefathers in 1620, to the present day, her sons,—while differing on other subjects,—have thought alike on this, and they have reason to be proud of the result.

The Colleges of Massachusetts are aptly called Seminaries of learning; for by them the seeds of knowledge, of virtue, of morality and religion are sown broad cast through our land. Go where you will from Maine to Mexico, from Ohio to the Pacific Ocean, and much of what you find among the people that is good, and honest, intelligent and successful, owes its origin to the loans or education of New England,—and principally of Massachusetts. In my humble opinion our Colleges are the great conservatives of the Union, and we are deeply indebted to them for whatever of honest principle, and integrity of character exists among us.

You inform me that the Trustees of Amherst College wish to take this occasion “to testify their gratitude to those who have recently aided them so liberally in the endowment of Professorships, the erection of a Cabinet of Natural History, and an Astronomical Observatory.”

I join with you most heartily in such a testimony. The good judgment of the gentlemen in selecting, and their liberality in giving to these objects, fully entitle them to such a mark of your attention, and I know from agreeable experience how ready the Trustees of Amherst are, to express the gratitude they feel, for any evidence of interest shown to their Institution.

Especially permit me to notice the Observatory, and the liberal and enlightened Gentleman whose name stands the first on the list of Patrons. I trust that the foundation thus laid by him will hereafter sustain the instruments of modern science to draw from the skies a knowledge of the stars—to demonstrate to men the Glory of God, and the magnificence of His works,—and show to their wondering minds that “the thousand brilliant worlds which circle round Him, are governed by one law, and that in wisdom “He has made them all.”

But while the Benefactors of the College are thus honored, the Faculty of the College should come in for their share of gratitude. I have been a silent but not an inattentive observer of them. I have been informed of their devotion to their literary labors,—of their self-denials,—of their voluntary surrender of a part of their moderate salaries,—reserving only enough for a bare subsistence,—to relieve the College in its necessity. Such disinterested zeal stands out brightly, and merits an honorable record.

I venture to conclude my answer to you, Reverend Sir, with the following sentiment: Literary talent, and pecuniary ability, may their zeal be ever found united in building up the Halls of learning, and extending the altars of Religion!

With great respect and consideration,

Your obedient humble servant,

DAVID SEARS.

In like manner a letter was brought forward from HON. ABBOTT LAWRENCE.

It is said that in the city of London there are one hundred and twenty men by the name of John Smith: and the fact gives rise to numerous ludicrous and some serious mistakes in the distribution of letters. The family of Lawrence in Massachusetts is somewhat numerous. Yet this fact occasions but little inconvenience, so far as the cause of learning and benevolence is concerned. For if the letter only reaches one of the name, it is pretty sure to result in a Scientific School, a Mechanics Library, a College Library Building, a Professorship, or an Astronomical Observatory. I know you will be glad to hear from one of this name, whom a letter from us happened to reach.

BOSTON, JUNE 12, 1848.

MY DEAR SIR:

I am greatly obliged for the invitation with which you have honored me, to visit Amherst on the 28th inst., and regret that it will not be in my power to be with you. I hope to have the satisfaction at a future time, of visiting your Institution, which appears to be in a prosperous condition, and destined to be the instrument of producing great good to our common country. I rejoice in the success of all our Institutions of learning, particularly those which have been established for the special object of educating a class of men at a moderate charge, who are to dis-
pense the gospel of Jesus Christ to the people, and disseminate sound morals drawn from his teachings. I have a clear conviction, that the only security for our excellent form of Government, is universal education, founded upon the platform of the Bible. Whatever may be said of our Pilgrim Fathers, there can be no doubt with all their rigid views, they understood the true principles of Republicanism, (all of which were taken from the fountain of wisdom) as well as the *philosophers* of the present day, whether on this, or the other side of the Atlantic. In the hope that your labors may be blessed through all time, I pray you to believe Dear Sir, that I remain always,

Your friend and obedient servant,

ABBOTT LAWRENCE.

The following letter was received from GERARD HALLOCK, ESQ., of New York, co-editor of the Journal of Commerce.

NEW YORK, JUNE 15, 1848.

REV. PRESIDENT HITCHCOCK, DEAR SIR:

I did hope to be able to attend the celebration to which you kindly invite me,—but a sudden and dangerous illness of my partner, Mr. Hale, from which, however, he appears to be slowly recovering, will render it impossible. As I had the honor of holding the plough at the second ploughing of the ground preparatory to the erection of the first College building, (Col. Graves held it the first time,) and as from

that day to this I have felt a deep interest in the prosperity of the Institution, I should sincerely rejoice to mingle my congratulations for its success, with those of the many respected friends who will be present on the occasion.

With much respect,

Yours sincerely,

GERARD HALLOCK.

In this letter we have an important development of character. This gentleman when young, though he might yield to age and experience the right to turn the first furrow in founding a literary institution, was sure to take the lead in the second ploughing. We need not wonder then, that in subsequent life, he has so often ploughed the *first* furrow, and ploughed it deep, in many an important enterprise.

PROFESSOR SILLIMAN, Senior, was thus introduced by a reference to his great work.

There is a work in our country that has now completed its fifty-fifth volume, whose history is essentially the history of American Science. It has formed a rallying point for the widely scattered cultivators of American Science, and gathered fuel to keep the sacred fire burning upon her altar; and the light which has emanated thence, has been a principal means of giving to this hemisphere the scientific reputation which she enjoys abroad. This work was started, and has been carried on, for thirty years, mainly by an individual, often at great personal and pecuniary sacrifice. I refer to the American Journal of Science and the Arts, whose fifty-five volumes you can see standing on yonder shelf; and what is better, we have with us to-day its eminent editor, DR. SILLIMAN, who, I would hope, will be willing to give us some history of his early labors and sacrifices in this cause; and I know, if you look at yonder work, you will not regard it as flattery when I introduce him as the Nestor of American Science.

To this call Professor Silliman replied as follows:*

MR PRESIDENT:—

I have listened with great pleasure, to the very interesting and instructive addresses which have been pronounced this morning, in the College Chapel. The orator, in his terse, lucid and sententious discourse, presented the best possible illustration of the results of the moral and mental training and of the value of the intellectual treasures which he commended to his youthful audience; while the graceful and beautiful response of their literary and parental head was in perfect harmony, with the happy occasion.

* By request, he furnished in MS. his recollections of his impromptu remarks; and some thoughts have been added or carried out more fully than the limits of time permitted on the occasion.

The hospitable and warm-hearted social meeting, in which we are now engaged in the midst of the guardians, the alumni, the pupils and benefactors of the College, and of many lovers of learning, has already elicited vivid thoughts and kindled warm sympathies; more warm and more vivid, no doubt, from the kindly influence of the gentler friends who grace this board.

Happy should I have been to remain a hearer and an observer only, for I came to Amherst not to speak but to listen. But since I have been called up by those who have a right to command, I must even obey, although I must throw myself upon the indulgence of this courteous company, since I cannot offer premeditated thoughts, and must of necessity give utterance to the feelings, sentiments and recollections which may present themselves, spontaneously, from the influence of the circumstances that now surround us.

Allusion having been kindly made to my humble action in promoting the progress of science in our country, if I am to respond to that suggestion, I shall not be able to state what I have observed, without speaking somewhat of myself. Egotism I would gladly avoid, but as I cannot entirely escape from the consequential pronoun, I must beg pardon of my audience, while I pass on, as quickly as possible, to the more modest second and third persons, whom I shall be happy soon to introduce. In the summer of 1802, being then a tutor in Yale College, I had nearly finished a course of study in jurisprudence, intending to offer myself as a candidate for legal practice as soon as I should have passed the usual examination for admission to the bar. At this crisis, a rather tempting invitation was presented to me to remove to the State of Georgia, to take charge, at first, of a higher Academy at Sunbury, in Liberty County, near to Savannah, and then to pass into the practice of the law. That distinguished man, Dr. Dwight, President of Yale College, being the friend of my father and family, and always a parental friend to me, I asked his advice on the occasion, when he promptly replied, "I advise you not to go to Georgia to make a permanent residence:"—and after assigning several cogent reasons, which need not be repeated here, he added: "I have a much better object to propose to you. The corporation of Yale College, last year,—1801,—at my suggestion, passed a vote to establish a professorship of Chemistry and the connected sciences, as soon as the funds of the Institution would allow. We have no men among us possessing the requisite qualifications; we cannot adopt a foreigner, with habits, and prejudices, and perhaps a language alien to our own, and we have therefore no alternative but to select some young man, in whom we can confide, and allow him time and assistance to prepare himself for the duties of the new professorship; now," he added, "if you will allow your name to stand for this office, it shall be my care to see that you are appointed at the next meeting of the corporation of the College in the ensuing September." It was then July, and we were standing in front of the College buildings, shielded from a fervid sun by the noble sycamores, now forty-six years older than on that day. I naturally thought of the still more fervid suns of Georgia, while the very unexpected and gratifying overture of the President revived a love of phenomena and of observation and experiment which had delighted my childhood and early youth, made me familiar with mechanical employments and somewhat expert in the use of tools and in various juvenile fabrications. A chord of sympathy had been touched by a master hand; my feelings promptly responded, and I consented to take the matter into consideration.

The president went on to enforce his proposition, by adding, that in his view, the sciences which he had named afforded a fair field of usefulness and of reputation, especially for a young man, who might rise with them in our rising country, and if they did not present as flattering prospects of emolument as the law, they would be free from its distractions and collisions, and from the keen rivalry of a crowded profession.

After consulting my friends, I agreed to accept the offer; the appointment was made accordingly, and very much to the surprise of the public; but snitable explanations of the plan soon set that matter right, and there was a ready acquiescence in what appeared, at first, so startling if not preposterous.

The political situation of the country being then critical, and the position of colleges not being deemed very secure, I finished my legal studies and was duly admitted to the bar; for it appeared possible that I might find it still a desirable refuge from the violent movements of a tempestuous period. In the autumn of 1802 and 3 I repaired to Philadelphia, and returned to New Haven in the spring season of 1803 and 4, after availing myself of the courses of scientific lectures, and especially of those of the late Dr. James Woodhouse on Chemistry. I was also associated in a course of private experiments with a gentleman,* then already a proficient, who afterwards became himself an eminent Professor of Chemistry in the Medical School of the University of Pennsylvania, and has recently retired from his labors after a long and honorable course of public duty.

Finding in the drawers of a small miscellaneous museum in Yale College a number of minerals, I packed them all, being then the entire mineral cabinet, in a small box, not larger than a common travelling valise, and took them to Philadelphia, in my first visit to that city, in November, 1802. The late Dr. Seybert, subsequently the distinguished writer on our national Statistics, had then recently returned from the celebrated school of Werner, at Fribourg, in Germany, and was, at that time, the only thoroughly trained mineralogist and geologist in the United States; nor had he among us any superior in the science of Chemistry. An early introduction to that gentleman, secured his kind attention to my little collection, which I had marked by numerals, and I had prepared blank sheets of paper, with corresponding numbers, against which I wrote the names which during a visit to my chamber, Dr. Seybert gave me, as he performed the function of Adam at the creation, by imposing appellations on objects, most of which were quite as new to me as were the animals to our great progenitor.

This brief, but to me very important instruction, I never forgot; it was my starting point in mineralogy; like the first dollar obtained in business, it became the basis of capital, and like that dollar, when earned by industry and effort, it was highly valued, because I realized its importance. From that time onward, for many years, I lost no occasion for studying and collecting minerals, until the subject, illustrated by fine opportunities in the field and splendid collections in cabinets, grew upon me with a rapidity of acquisition equal to that which attends successful efforts in business, and with a degree of fascination not inferior to that which surrounds an acquired fortune. If any persons who have seen the cabinet of Yale College as it now stands arranged,† should chance to recollect the small

* Robert Hare.

† The splendid Gibbs Cabinet was acquired within the first twenty years after my appointment.

box of minerals with which it began,—they will not think it extravagant, if we should appropriate the classical sentiment, *e parvis oriuntur magna*.

On the 4th day of April, 1804, I gave my first lecture in Chemistry to the Senior Class in Yale College, and the succeeding seasons until March, 1805, were diligently occupied in the fulfilment of similar duties, and in constructing a Laboratory.

Between the months of March 1805 and June 1806, I was industriously employed, chiefly in England and Scotland, and a short time in Holland, in pursuits connected with Science and with the interests of Yale College. Rich sources of knowledge were opened to me, both in the halls of instruction in London and Edinburgh, and in the profound depths of the mines, and I returned with increased confidence and satisfaction to my proper duties.

And here, Mr. President, as you have called me up and compelled me to speak of myself, I must be forgiven, if I now say something of you.

What I am now to utter must be considered as spoken *aside*, like some passages in a play, and I shall adopt the fiction that you are not present, while I address myself not indeed to the galleries with which the room is not embellished, but to the tables, surrounded as they are by intelligent gentlemen and ladies.

Several years after my return from Europe, and before this college was founded I received a small box of minerals from a person then unknown to me, who stated that he was the principal of Deerfield Academy, and that he was in the habit of collecting, in his excursions, among the rocky ridges of that picturesque and beautiful country, such minerals as he could find, but as he was not able to name them, he had forwarded to me a box of specimens, with the localities attached, and I was desired to mark and return them. The accompanying letter produced a very favorable impression on my mind, by the intelligent zeal and modesty which were its characteristics. It was therefore promptly and kindly answered; the minerals were named, and the gentleman was encouraged to send other boxes as he might find occasion. In due time, other boxes came, and the mineralogists now present, hardly need to be informed, that the minerals were such as are usually found in trap or basalt formations, and that among them were quartz of several varieties, agates, chalcedony, analcime, chabasie, and other Zeolitic minerals; some of which were not indeed of great practical importance, but all of them possessed a degree of scientific interest, as new localities, and especially as characterising, geologically, this part of the valley of the Connecticut.

The interest which had been created by this correspondence was soon increased by personal interviews, resulting in several terms of residence at New Haven, where all the sources of knowledge in our possession, were freely opened and rendered available to one who knew how to appreciate them and whose valuable moral, and interesting social traits made me happy to acknowledge an estimable personal friend and efficient coadjutor in EDWARD HITCHCOCK.

If the arduous and important duties of the clerical profession under the conviction of the superior claims of religious duty, soon detached the devotee of science from his favorite pursuits, he never relinquished them entirely; and well might he linger over the science of nature, in the study of which in the beautiful language of Agassiz, *we read the thoughts of God*, and thus the science of nature becomes preparatory and auxiliary to the study of revelation. Not many years passed away, before we had the pleasure of recommending the Reverend clergyman

as a proper person to fill a professorship of Natural Science in this College; he accepted the appointment, and we have come forward to this day *pari passu* in the pursuits of science and united in the confidence of friendship. How ably he fulfilled the duties of his station, is well known to all the classes which have passed under his instructions, and his grateful pupils have often sent him returns from distant lands,—even from central Asia, of the natural productions of those regions so famed in ancient story. His numerous papers in the American Journal of Science and Arts, on the mineralogy and geology of the Connecticut River Valley and on many other subjects; and above all, his elementary work on Geology and his elaborate and masterly report on the Geology and Natural History of Massachusetts, rendered more and more perfect in three editions published by the government, prove that our confidence in him was well founded, and that he is fully entitled to the high reputation, both American and European, which he enjoys.

I must now request another gentleman to vanish for a few moments, or to remain incog. while I advert to some circumstances connected equally with his personal history and with that of the departments of science which he has successfully cultivated.

Some years after this college was founded, I received a letter from a member of one of its college classes, whose name was new to me. He, in a modest manner, offered for publication in the American Journal of Science, a description of certain minerals found in this vicinity. The skill and tact of a proficient were apparent in this early effort, and he was of course encouraged to repeat his communications. As in the case of the honored head of this Institution correspondence brought us to a personal interview, followed by a residence at New Haven, under the shadow of the college. In the course of some time he became the scientific assistant in my department, and was, for several years, my zealous and able colleague; until the Franklin Institute of New Haven, a popular Institution for instruction made accessible to all persons, was founded by a patriotic citizen, James Brewster Esq. when the gentleman alluded to above became charged with the care of this new establishment. From this temporary connexion, we in full confidence indorsed him over to the Medical College of South Carolina, situated in Charleston, where he has for thirteen years sustained a high and deserved reputation.

His own alma mater has also adopted him, as one of her professors, and we have now the pleasure of seeing CHARLES UPHAM SHEPARD, among those who do honor to the Institutions with which he is connected, not only among his own countrymen, but in the Scientific circles of Europe.

This gentleman has been a frequent contributor to the pages of the American Journal of Science and Arts, and his numerous explorations and reports on mines and mineral resources and various practical interests, including an able report on the economical mineralogy and geology of Connecticut have made him a part of the scientific furniture of his country, "known and used of all men." A rapid journey to Great Britain, some years since, enlarged his knowledge and extended his connexions, and thus we are happy to see in this case and in many other instances, that learning does not always rust out in colleges, but is often drawn forth for the benefit of mankind. Professor Shepard has also given us a valuable elementary work on mineralogy which is still a standard book.

Contributions to science, through the American Journal have been made by other gentlemen of this faculty, but we must set limits to our present recapitulation, as the proprieties of this occasion do not allow us to go beyond the sphere of our personal observation in relation to this College and our own, and we can not even allude to a multitude of other interesting facts relating to the progress of Science over the wide area of our country, and to the connexion of the science of this land with that of Europe, where it is now eagerly sought for, and many of our best memoirs are republished in various languages.

I cannot close these hasty remarks without offering my best congratulations to the friends of this college, on the happy occasion which has brought us together. A quarter of a century ago and Amherst College was not in existence; now it presents to us results worthy of our older Institutions: and if it has experienced adversity, and has in former years struggled on with limited means, it is now cheered by the bright sunshine of public and private patronage, and the useful arts have yielded to it a liberal portion of their rich results. May they long prosper, and may that munificent individual, who knows so well how to bestow the bounties of providence, long continue to reap and wisely use his golden harvest.

The noble Building, constructed for an Observatory and Museum, which now crowns one of the hills of Amherst, does great honor to the Institution, to the liberal contributors to its erection, and to the architect.

The museum of Natural History is rich in various departments, especially in mineralogy, geology, conchology, and entomology. The beautiful and very select cabinet of mineralogy, deposited by Prof. Shepard would do honor to any university in Europe, and there are few collections in conchology and entomology equal to that of Prof. Adams, both as regards its extent, variety and completeness and the fine taste and beauty of the arrangement; while the rich collection made chiefly by the President, extremely interesting and instructive as it is especially in local specimens, is almost unique among the cabinets of our country.

Here and at Greenfield* are to be seen the results of much labor and skill expended in developing the foot marks of extinct races of animals that walked this earth and in this region in great multitudes soon after the era of the coal formation. This is not the occasion to discuss the relative claims of reptiles and birds as the authors of these tracks. It appears, however, to admit of no reasonable doubt that both once walked on the yielding but tenacious mud when it was in a fit state to receive and retain the impressions, which, in the case of some of the largest and deepest, fill us with astonishment, when we see that several quarts of water may be contained in the separate cavities, and that the tallest man strives in vain to equal the easy stride of these more than birds of Jove.

The splendid science of Geology informs us that below the coal all animals were marine,—at the era of the coal, we find the first transition to amphibia and reptiles, and if our views are correct, to birds; but many ages rolled by, before any terrestrial animal walked the earth, and more ages still before man, the lord of this lower creation, was called into being, and took quiet possession of his splendid palace.

In this college, Astronomy still looks below as well as above for means to fulfil

*At Greenfield, by Dr. Deane, who has distinguished himself greatly in this research,—aided by a zealous and intelligent artizan, Mr. Marsh, whose collection is exceedingly large and interesting.

its high behests. It will not be in vain that the telescopic aperture in the revolving dome of this lofty observatory shews its empty space and its naked pedestal. Some Williston, or Hitchcock, or Lawrence, will, before many years, mount on this tower the magical tube that revolves the nebulae, and shews a countless multitude of worlds, where the naked eye sees only a diffused light, like that of the milky way. When Harvard needed a grand telescope it was only necessary for Prof. Pierce, during a public lecture on comets in Boston, to hold up in his hand a very small instrument, and to say that if they had not been as fortunate as a sister institution in discovering the comet of 1842—*this was the reason*, as they had no better telescope. We were present and did not doubt that this would prove a master stroke of eloquence, addressed as it was to the liberality of a rich and munificent community. The result is well known, and we hazard little in predicting, that the mute eloquence of this unfurnished dome will prove equally effectual, e'er many astronomical cycles have revolved.

We cannot take leave of Amherst and its vicinity without casting our eyes, once more, upon its splendid scenes of grandeur, beauty and loveliness. Its ranges of abrupt and yet accessible mountains,—its graceful hills of gentle slope,—its rich fields of corn, and crops of various names,—its vast and luxuriant meadows, watered by its matchless river,—its numerous and brilliant villages, adorned with school houses, and bristling with steeples,—and more than all, its moral, intelligent, and happy population present to the eye and the mind a combination which it is delightful to contemplate.

Permit then, a son of another State, which, as the younger sister of the same lineage, holds Massachusetts in high veneration,—and, as a son of an Institution which is a scion of the venerable Harvard, to wish all prosperity to the Colleges of this State, and especially to this young Institution, which, under its present wise and happy administration, will continue to enlarge its means of usefulness, and to draw to itself increasing esteem, confidence and affection.

The reference of Dr. Silliman to PROFESSOR SHEPARD brought the latter before the audience in the following remarks :

In rising to return my thanks for the notice which Dr. Silliman has been pleased to take of me in his remarks, I may perhaps be allowed to be so far egotistical as to allude to my early relations with that eminent individual. Twenty-two years ago, it was my good fortune to be admitted, first as a private pupil of the Professor, and soon after as his assistant. Having previously had my attention strongly turned to the departments of chemistry and mineralogy, the increased facilities I found at New Haven for their prosecution, (arising from a well furnished laboratory, a splendid cabinet of minerals, and a well supplied library,) heightened by the dignified and generous bearing of my instructor, determined so effectually the current of my life, that it has steadily kept to the same channel ever since. To my latest day, I shall never lose the memory of those happy years, in which there remains behind not one recollection tinged with regret, save this: that I did not more assiduously improve the golden opportunities then placed within my reach. Whatever of success has waited upon my career, I am bound to ascribe to my early master; the errors and the imperfections which have marked my course are my own; and I regret that the stock of these undesirable originalities is so very considerable.

I need scarcely add, that it is one of the pleasantest events of my life to welcome the faithful professor and learned editor here to-day, to whom with many a palpitation of heart, I sent, while still a youthful student in yonder walls, the scientific paper to which he so flatteringly alluded, and from whom I soon received in reply, words of encouragement and hope. May his days be greatly prolonged on earth, to witness and to aid, the extension of those useful sciences, which he was among the first, and by far the most efficient of any, to introduce to the notice of his countrymen.

In this reminiscence of my early associations, will Dr. Silliman allow me before taking my seat, to add, that my attention was drawn to a blooming boy, who used occasionally to linger about the laboratory and the cabinet. His first chemical exploit, I believe, consisted in tapping a row of sugar-maple shade trees before his father's door, and in manufacturing from the sap a superior quality of sugar. He next surprised his friends by procuring a fine series of medallion castings in iron. These exploits, were followed in quick succession by the unassisted construction of a splendid turning lathe, by means of which he rapidly executed a great variety of the most finished turnings in metal. That youth, as the years rolled by, steadily advanced in this promising career. He passed with credit the college *curriculum*, became a skillful chemist and mineralogist, rose to an equal rank in the University with my honored teacher himself, and enrolled his name as co-editor of the *American Journal of Science*. That name is no other than PROFESSOR BENJAMIN SILLIMAN, itself; and the individual who bears it, honors us with his presence to-day, in company with his distinguished parent.

The elder Pliny wrote thirty-seven books on Natural History, which constitute in this department, our most precious relic of classic antiquity. The elder Silliman has already completed about fifty, in scientific journalism; may the younger Silliman be permitted at least, to achieve the century of volumes!

PROFESSOR SHEPARD'S allusions to PROFESSOR SILLIMAN, Junior, produced a response from that gentleman.

In reply, PROF. SILLIMAN said: That he was never taken so much by surprise as in finding himself alluded to on the present occasion, by the gentleman who had just spoken. Never before had he found himself placed in circumstances of such peculiar embarrassment as his friend had now left him in; and much as he felt himself indebted to Professor Shepard on the occasion, he certainly could not thank him for the present flattering allusions, since they imposed the obligation of a reply, when entire silence was the only course consistent with his feelings.

He reverted with great pleasure to those youthful days, when it was his privilege to enjoy daily intercourse with his distinguished friend, in the Laboratory of Yale College, and to witness the zeal with which he devoted himself to his favorite pursuits. He felt the power of this example in awakening his own mind to kindred interest and zeal in the same departments. Certain he was, if any success should attend his efforts in the cause of science, that the most of such success, should, in no inconsiderable degree, be most gratefully referred to the advantages derived by him from his former intimate connection with Prof. Shepard.

The speaker would not trust himself to encounter those emotions which must unavoidably arise in his heart from a contemplation of the delicate position of pe-

cular responsibility in which he was placed, as it were, by inheritance. Mr. Shepard had feelingly alluded to his editorial connections and his filial position. He felt most keenly his inability to meet all the expectations which might be reasonably entertained in consequence of the advantages which he had always enjoyed. No one else could be so painfully sensible as himself of the imperfect manner in which he had improved those opportunities, and he must rely upon the kind consideration of his friends for all his short comings.

He adverted with pleasure to the present encouraging position of Amherst College,—to her enlarged and available means of instruction. He had not before enjoyed the pleasure of being within her walls, and he could scarcely credit the statements he had heard of her former days of despondency and gloom, contrasted as such a condition was with her present position of commanding excellence,—not second to the best appointed institutions in this country. The speaker concluded by congratulating the President upon the remarkable prosperity which had attended his administration of the affairs of Amherst College,—a success which was the best pledge of future usefulness and advancement.

Another scientific gentleman was thus introduced :

When Franklin discovered the laws of Electricity, it gave him power to a certain extent, over the lightning. We have a gentleman with us on this occasion, who has obtained a similar power over the winds and the storms, in the same way, by discovering at least a part of the laws that regulate them. It gives me pleasure to introduce my friend, WILLIAM C. REDFIELD, ESQ., of New York, known throughout the scientific world, as having well nigh wrested the sceptre from Eolus, and the trident from Neptune.

The response of Mr. Redfield was as follows :

MR. W. C. REDFIELD could only offer his thanks for the kind manner in which he had been introduced by the President to the respected auditory. If it had been his fortune to be instrumental, in any degree, in pointing out to the mariner the true dangers which beset his path, and the best methods for avoiding or lessening these dangers, it had been owing, in a great measure, to those earlier efforts for the promotion of American science, which they had heard described so eloquently on the present occasion,—in which efforts, Professor Silliman, President Hitchcock, and others, had been so eminently distinguished. He saw before him some of the friends to whom he had been mainly indebted for advice and encouragement in his own humble efforts and inquiries, and among them one, [Dr. Gridley, of Amherst,] who, when a college student, had first drawn his uncultivated attention to chemistry and other natural sciences, which at that time had only begun to receive attention in our colleges. It was his privilege to be a native of the Connecticut valley, and, having been brought here to-day, by the interest which he felt in its prosperity and in the progress of useful knowledge, he could make no claims to their attention but such as might well belong to the sons of New England who have been trained in her common schools. He would consider these primary schools as constituting the true foundation of those maturer ef-

forts and institutions for the promotion of knowledge and virtue which we had met to commemorate; and would now beg leave to offer as a sentiment,—THE COMMON SCHOOLS OF NEW ENGLAND: LIVING GERMS OF A GREAT FUTURE.

A letter from the HON. JONATHAN C. PERKINS, whose Report and efforts as chairman of the Committee of the Legislature, had exerted a strong influence in giving the College success in its application for aid from that body, was introduced with the following remarks :

Little did I imagine that among our numerous benefactors we should find the *Sea Nymphs*, coming to our aid. But I hold in my hand their beautiful offering, which the following letter from Hon. J. C. Perkins will explain.

SALEM, JUNE 20, 1848.

MY DEAR SIR :

I have sent addressed to you, a book of sea plants, prepared for the use of Amherst College by some of my friends in Salem : Mrs. James Briggs, Mrs. Robert Brookhouse, the Misses Richardson, and Mrs. Perkins, my wife. It appears to be a very choice collection. Will you be kind enough to take the book and make such disposition of it as you may think proper and useful.

I am very sorry that my engagements in Court at Ipswich will necessarily prevent my accepting your very kind and flattering invitation to be present at the meeting of the friends and benefactors of Amherst College, on the 28th inst. I find that time and age increase and strengthen my interest in the prosperity of Amherst,—and I am sure it would afford me great pleasure to join in congratulations upon her success. But that I must forego at this time.

Ever faithful and sincerely,

Yours, &c.

J. C. PERKINS.

Here is another similar offering from Miss SARAH S. MUGFORD, of the same city, rendered doubly valuable from the fact, that the severest bodily sufferings of years have not extinguished in her the love of nature.

It seems then, that the *Sea Nymphs* would probably never have thought of us, had they not been moved by the *Land Nymphs*. I know, then, that you will join me in wishing health and happiness to the *Land Nymphs* of Salem ; nor would I withhold the wish from any of this family in Massachusetts.

Another gentleman was thus called upon :

I see near me a gentleman who twenty-five years ago, and only two years after the College was regularly commenced was a Tutor in it, and subsequently for ten years a Professor. We shall claim a little credit for the extensive good he has accomplished since that time, in another

sphere, on the ground that his eleven years successful instruction here, in that microcosm, a college, more fully prepared him to act successfully in the larger world on which he has been operating. Gentlemen, it is hardly necessary for me to say, that I refer to DR. WORCESTER, of Salem.

To this call Dr. Worcester promptly responded.

MR. PRESIDENT :

If I were to express myself in military phrase, such as was so common in the days of Napoleon, I should say of myself, that I belonged to the "OLD GUARD" of Amherst College.—It is now twenty-five years, next October, since I came *rock-ing* over the hills of Pelham to this place. It was literally so; for the vehicle in which I rode, was as much like a *bread-tray* as anything else. This used to come into the town with the mail, once a week,—returning also the next day from Northampton; and stirred up all the people, both of the East street and the West.

I arrived here one week before our reverend friend, the late president of the College, whom I regret not to see present with us, on this delightful occasion. I had received my appointment, I might say, from the gentleman, who has since been so well known as the Editor of the "National Preacher." He had come to Andover, as a plenipotentiary ambassador from the higher powers, to secure some one to fill the office of junior Tutor in the "*Amherst Collegiate Institution*." I was then an assistant in Phillips Academy, having left my class in the Theological Seminary, about two weeks previous. I had known but little of the Institution, but accepted the appointment, as a choice of evils, one year. And if I had known a small part only of what I soon ascertained to be the state of things, it is not at all probable, that I could have been persuaded to leave my situation in the Academy.

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On my arrival, I was met by one of the friends of the Institution, who accompanied me to my room in the "South College." Very different was the whole appearance of things from what is now seen, upon yonder hill, and all around us. I was soon conducted to the upper story of what is now the "Middle College," and to the room which was then used for the "Chapel." Adjoining this were the rooms for the library and the apparatus, philosophical and chemical. While inspecting the books, I was informed of the encouraging remark of a gentleman, who had said, that they were "*sufficient for the beginning of a library of fifty thousand volumes*." But a wheel-barrow, a few times loaded, could easily have borne them all away; and if a considerable part had thus been disposed of, it might have been as well, so far as any actual benefit was derived from them. Of the "apparatus" I can hardly trust myself to speak. There was, I believe, an electrical machine, which possibly might have raised a *spark*, and an air-pump.

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Among the students in the different classes, numbering in all about 125, there was a good degree of talent, and enterprisc. The Senior Class consisting of nineteen members, it is no disparagement to their successors to say, has never been exceeded, in ability and real worth. From one of the distinguished Professors, (Dr. Edwards,) which that class has given to our New England, you have heard in a letter which has just been read, and the speech of another we have had the pleasure of receiving from the gentleman on my right. (Prof. Shepard.)

The opposition to the College, at the time when I became connected with it, was very great, in all this region. Good, men, honestly no doubt, were divided in opinion, in regard to the expediency of its establishment, and the course which was pursued. There was much misunderstanding and misrepresentation. No charter had been obtained from the Legislature. Some of the most eminent ministers as I well remember to have noticed, when they preached in the pulpit of the village, could pray for *the young men*, who were assembled here for education; but they could not pray for *the Institution*, and much as ever did they pray for the officers.

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Such were the trials of the President, in that first year of his experience, that at one time he narrowly escaped, as many thought, a fatal prostration. If he had not left his duties and cares for a season, he would have found as early a grave, as did his estimable predecessor, in the summer previous. Were it suitable, I could speak out upon this subject, and make known what has been but little understood or appreciated, of his difficulties and perplexities, as the head of the Institution, in its early days.

In the Spring of 1824, a committee was appointed by the Legislature, to come to Amherst, and investigate all matters affecting the Institution, and report the ensuing winter. There was no dread of a candid and impartial scrutiny. But from divers causes and occasions, the prospect was gloomy indeed. Many of the best students had become uneasy and discontented. Some were dissatisfied with the means of instruction; others feared that they never should be able to obtain a diploma, like graduates at incorporated Colleges. In the Summer Term, when I was expecting to leave my humble station, I was informed in a confidential interview, that a large portion of the class, which was then becoming Junior,—had determined to take a dismission, unless they could have better instruction in the languages, and some lectures upon ancient literature. Members of the Freshman Class also, which had been particularly under my care, expressed a similar purpose,—provided they could not be assured of my remaining with them.—I regret to be obliged to speak so much in the way of personal allusion; but it is impossible, that I should otherwise state the facts, which ought to be known, in respect to this dark period of the history of the College.

From my personal esteem for Dr. Humphrey, I may say, Mr. President, more than from any other consideration, I yielded at last to an application to remain. There was one condition, however, which it was somewhat venturesome in a young officer to prescribe. It was, that there should be a new Professor. The condition was acceded to, and to my great surprise, I was solicited to take the office, which was to be made vacant. Of this, you may be assured, I should not have spoken, but for its connexion with the best service, which it was my privilege to render to Amherst College. Instead of accepting the office proposed to me, I at once nominated my friend and brother, and *your* friend and brother, Mr. President, the LAMENTED PROFESSOR FISKE. I went myself to persuade him to join us. He had just returned from a missionary service, at the South. You need not, that I should tell you what has since followed, from his connexion with the College.

We commenced the college-year 1824—5, with two new officers, and were five in all. The Senior Professor attempted but little labor, and was absent much of the time, until the Institution was incorporated, when he tendered his resignation. The rest of us had to work hard, but we were of one heart and soul. And I ques-

tion whether, in any subsequent year, the internal state of the Institution was more pleasant and animating.

When the "long agony" was over, and the intelligence of the Act of Incorporation, as fully signed and sealed, had arrived, there was, as you may well suppose, not a little of exhilaration. At evening prayers, the president read a portion of Scripture, which you will find in the 4th Chapter of Nehemiah. I do not think I shall soon forget how he read the words: "But it came to pass that when Sanballat heard that we builded the wall, he was wroth, and took great indignation, and mocked the Jews. And he spake before his brethren, and the army of Samaria, and said, what do these feeble Jews? will they fortify themselves? will they sacrifice? will they make an end in a day? will they revive the stones out of the heaps of the rubbish which are burned? Now Tobiah the Ammonite was by him, and he said, Even that which they build, if a fox go up, he shall even break down their stone wall, &c." The emphasis upon "*Sanballat*," and "*Tobiah*," and "*the Arabians*," and the "*fox going up*," you may be certain had its effect; as did the other parts of the Chapter, upon which there was no commentary but in the tones of the reading, and no practical observations but in the answering emotions of all present.

When the new Faculty was appointed, under the Charter, your own honored name, Mr. President, was among them. And I doubt not, you will bear me witness, that after the college was regularly organized, those young officers entered upon their work, in their respective departments, with much industry and energy. They were quite different from one another, each having his own peculiarities; yet were they truly a *band of brothers*, who harmonized as one, in the emulous exertion to make the college worthy of public confidence and a liberal patronage. But I must not enlarge. I could now speak for hours of the events and scenes in the ten years subsequent to the Act of Incorporation.

More recently, the College has had the sad reverses, which we all have felt most deeply. But in the darkest days of decline and depression, there has been that same *faith in God*, for which its founders and early friends were so remarkable. And what are we now permitted to behold? We behold, Mr. President, what the most confident, the most sanguine of all, who have prayed for the prosperity and perpetuity of this College, could never have expected with their own eyes to witness.

And Sir, of those living, who are absent, or of those dead, who have gone to their reward on high, who would more rejoice to be with us, at this thrilling festival, than our departed brother, whose memory is so dear? When in days gone by, we were so happily associated together, how little was it thought by you or me, and how little could it have been expected by himself, that he would ever send you those *stones* from "the goodly Lebanon,"* which Moses saw from the summits of Pisgah; and, that at last he would find his sepulchre with king David, on Mount Zion!

I wept when I heard of his death: for I loved him as an own brother. I wept, as I said to myself, how delighted he would have been to hear of the divine interposition, so signally manifested in behalf of the College! But I did not say, "Alas! my brother." I said, "*I give you joy, my brother. It is all well with thee.*"

He has gone, we cannot doubt, to that glorious city, which "hath the foundations of the wall garnished with all manner of precious stones." He is an inhab-

*More than 200 specimens in the Cabinet were sent by Prof. Fiske from Syria and Palestine.

it is never said, "*I go the way of all the earth!*" Be it our aim to be faithful as was he, that we may have our part in the same blessedness! We are yet in the world of action, where our appropriate duty is WORK, for the highest good of man, and the glory of HIM to whom all glory belongs: and where none but God, angels that never sinned, and spirits of just men made perfect, "are entitled to be SPECTATORS.

I conclude, Mr. President, as others have before me. I give you as a sentiment for the occasion: THE FOUNDERS OF AMHERST COLLEGE,—WORTHY SONS OF THE IMMORTAL FATHERS OF NEW ENGLAND!

The following remarks were intended to bring before the company, a gentleman present, who is distinguished in science: But the public conveyance summoned him away before he could reply.

The Government of the United States within a few years have carried through two great enterprises: the Exploring Expedition to the South Seas and a War with Mexico. The first cost perhaps three or four millions of dollars,—and the last one hundred and fifty. The results of both are now in a great measure before the world, and to which will impartial christian men now and hereafter attach the most honor? We have present a gentleman who shared in the toils and dangers of the Exploring Expedition, and whose splendid volumes of Reports are among the noblest results of that enterprise. I do not expect, however, that my friend JAMES D. DANA, Esq., whom I am happy to introduce to this assembly, will on account of his battles and victories in the South Seas, be brought before the people as a candidate for the Presidency or any other high political office. But I am sure he deserves and will receive some of the highest honors which the Republic of Letters can bestow.

Besides the gentlemen from other Colleges of New England, whose names have been already mentioned, others were present who were alluded to as follows:

We are honored by the presence of gentlemen connected with other New England Colleges, from whom we have not yet heard. Those Institutions are the Watch Towers, of this part of the Republic of Letters. Our cause, therefore, is a common one, and whatever strengthens one strengthens the whole, and whatever weakens one weakens the whole. We can therefore rejoice with one another in prosperity and sympathize in adversity. The gentlemen present, to whom I refer, hold commissions in fortresses that have long been distinguished in the great warfare that is going on against ignorance and despotism, vice and irreligion,—and they I doubt not will be glad to see any evidence that the most recent of these towers is filling up its magazines and burnishing its armor, after the example of those of

earlier date. But I hope that these gentlemen will let us hear from themselves, something on this great subject of education. Allow me to introduce PRESIDENT WHEELER of Vermont University, and PROFESSOR LASELL of Williams College.

The public conveyance took away PROFESSOR LASELL before he had time to respond to the call. DR. WHEELER however favored the company with some very interesting views on the subject of education. But the great pressure of public duties has prevented him from giving his address upon paper in season for this publication.

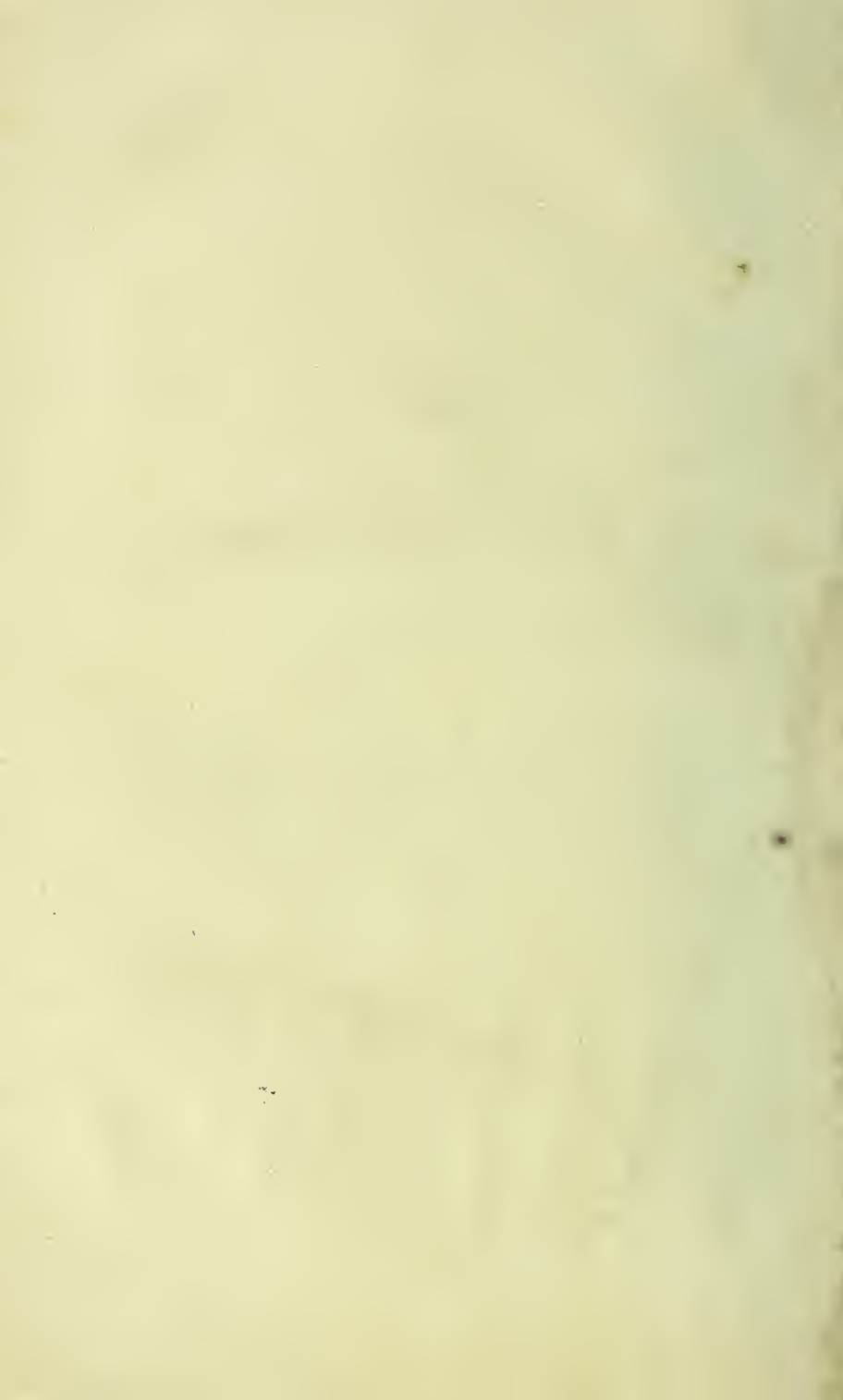
PROFESSOR HUBBARD of Dartmouth College had hoped to be present, but having been prevented, the following extract from his letter will be interesting to the friends of science.

"It may be relevant on this occasion of your celebration to mention, that our College has recently imported a telescope and other instruments, from Munich,—made to order,—sufficient for furnishing an Observatory. I trust that at no distant period, Amherst and Dartmouth may be in direct communication with each other and Yale : thus constituting a line of points of advantageous observations, hardly equalled."

Professor Adams (and we might make a similar remark in respect to some other gentlemen,) had no opportunity to reply to the allusions to him and his Cabinet by Dr. Silliman. He was therefore requested to furnish for this pamphlet any remarks which he might then have desired to make. He has accordingly sent in the following :

The efforts of naturalists to exhibit the true order of Nature, can never fail to gratify a correct and refined taste. Such order is of far higher origin than mere human invention, and is so perfect as to harmonize no less with our emotions of beauty than with our ideas of fitness and method. It is indeed one of the most delightful features of science, that the farther she advances in a correct knowledge of nature, the more symmetrically and harmoniously are all the powers of the intellect and the emotions of beauty and virtue gratified and invigorated. Nor can the lesson of humility be lost on the lover of science, since his highest efforts consist only in the discovery and exhibiton of a beauty and perfection, which not only does not originate in him, but which extends far beyond the most distant flights of his imagination. A feeble beginning has been made here in the exhibition of the Divine plan of nature. That it should meet with the approbation of one, whose life has been a long series of eminent services rendered to science, is truly gratifying. We are encouraged to hope that what has been done is in harmony with the highest truths, when it is regarded with satisfaction by one who has been accustomed in the diffusion of science, ably and happily to illustrate the infinite glories of the great Author of Nature.





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